

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 7, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect
The Office of the President-Elect
Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Project

Dear Mr. President-Elect:

As representatives for the New Jersey/New York metropolitan region, we want to call your attention to a "ready-to-go" project that will create six thousand jobs annually for ten years and fifty thousand permanent jobs in our region.

The Trans-Hudson Mass Transit Tunnel project is the first new rail tunnel under the Hudson River in 100 years and the largest transit project being designed in the nation. It is ranked among the best and most cost-effective projects by the Federal Transit Administration. When completed this new tunnel will double commuter rail capacity in the New Jersey-New York region, taking 22,000 cars off our roadways every day and reducing greenhouse gases.

New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine and New York Governor David Paterson have worked hard to secure \$5.7 billion in local funds, which is more than half the total \$8.7 billion needed to construct this new tunnel. The project is ready to advance the first \$3.1 billion in contracts early next year, creating six thousand jobs in the first year of construction. However, federal funding for new transit capital projects is extremely limited and without action the \$5.7 billion already raised will sit idle.

With the proper federal investment, projects like the Trans-Hudson Mass Transit will put people to work, spur the economy, and build an infrastructure that will pay dividends for generations. To that end, we urge you to support expanded federal funding for transit capital projects including this key project in the upcoming stimulus bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Lautenberg


Chuck Schumer

Robert Mering

John A. LoBue

Donald Payne

Ernest L. Emph

John Hall

Frank Patton Jr.

Bill Pascrell Jr

Stuart N. Nathan

Robert C. Aar

Alvin Sins

Rush Holt

Chris Smith